

Editorial

The *Medijska istraživanja/Media Research* journal appears this year as a double issue, carrying research papers by Croatian and foreign authors and other contributions on a wide variety of topics dealing with media policy and practice in this country and abroad.

Karol Jakubowicz is the author of a descriptive-analytical study entitled “Westernization and Westification: Social and Media Change in Central and Eastern Europe. A Polish case study”. He examines the development of the public information systems in Central and Eastern Europe, which share a number of characteristics, including a high degree of politicization of public life, a weak state and weak civil society. Legislative changes fail to correspond with the much slower patterns of social behaviour, while the desired transformation cannot be effected through the merely formal change of the institutional structure within a normative framework. Progress is possible only through the development of political and civic culture in these countries and certainly not by imitating the West.

Melita Poler Kovačič’s paper “The Crisis of Journalism as the Crisis of Ethics: Who Is the Journalistic Subject” is written from the Postmodernist perspective and it discusses an interesting proposition – namely, that the crisis of journalistic ethics is actually the crisis of the journalist as a subject.

Zala Volčič presents “A Critical-Historical Overview of Media Approaches”, a valuable attempt at reviewing the most influential theories of the media, recognizing their historical dimension, as well as the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary linkages of the contemporary theories of communication and theories of society.

Jasenka Zajec describes the present state and further development of online serial publications in Croatia, stressing the changes that they have brought into library operations at different stages of preparation, distribution, usage, processing and storage of serial publications.

Professor Steven S. Ross of Columbia University, a regular participant in the Dubrovnik conference on information technology and journalism, presents two new courses on CD-ROM in the article entitled “Creating and Using Instructional CD-ROM-s: New Ways of Creating Instructional Material for Journalists”. The courses in question are titled *New Media 2* and *Analytical Journalism* and they are intended for students of journalism and the new media.

In this issue you will also find a report on the AlphaGalileo Internet press centre, a database established in Great Britain in 1998 with the support of the European Commission. This is the address where journalists can find the latest information on scientific research in Europe, which enables them to better understand developments in science and report them to their readers.

Finally, there are two contributions that will be of interest to students of history of journalism in the political context of the single-party Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Tito's policies. Nenad Senić discusses "The Establishment of a New Media System in Slovenia in the Immediate Aftermath of World War II (1945-46): A Contribution to the History of the Media". He traces the Yugoslav Communist Party's seizure of power, illustrating this with media ideologization and monopolization in Slovenia. An analysis of the measures and procedures applied by the Communist Party reveals the methods in the domain of the media on which it relied to protect itself from its political opponents.

Božidar Novak, a distinguished Croatian journalist, presents a paper on "The Contribution of the Croatian Media and journalists to the Croatian Spring". During that time, Novak was Editor-in-Chief and Director of the *Vjesnik* newspaper. The Croatian Spring was a broad-based national movement in the Socialist Republic of Croatia (1970-71) as a consequence of the economic and social reforms in the then Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia inaugurated by its political leadership headed by Tito. The Croatian Spring was marked, *inter alia*, by the expansion of media freedoms and freedom of expression in Croatia and rejection of submission to the authoritarian system introduced in Yugoslavia after World War II. But it was also a period of uncertainty, insecurity, and political and economic suffering of journalists.

The issue closes with reviews of new Croatian books on media theory and media phenomena and of recent meetings and conferences devoted to media topics.

We wish to thank the contributors for their contributions and invite others to send us their papers on theoretical or empirical research into contemporary media theory and practice.

The Editors